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ABSTRACT

Part of a curriculum series for academically gifted elementary students in the area of reading, the pretest contains 45 reading comprehension questions evaluating various critical reading skills. (DB)

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CAPABLE READER PROGRAM
Pre-Test

January 1981

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William B. Herbert

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Read the story below. Choose the best answer and mark it on your answer sheet.

Yellow jackets belong to the wasp family. They look much like a honey bee with their black and yellow stripes, but are larger in size. They bite with their pincer-shaped mouths, but will sting if you swat at them. Sudden motion upsets them, and they sting to protect themselves or their nest. The best way to keep that from happening is to not look or act like a bear!

1. Since yellow jackets sting, the best way to prevent that is to
 1. stand very still.
 2. act and look like a bear.
 3. run.
 4. cover your head with your arms.

Read the story.

Mike and Rick sat down and played with the little square papers full of sugar. Mother told them not to. Then Mike went up to the counter and got four straws and four napkins. Dad came to the table with the order. The french fries were good and hot. Rick almost dropped his bun, but he caught it just before it fell into his milkshake. "May I have a pie, Mother?" he asked. "If you finish your other food, you may," she said. "No, you can't," Father added. "It took all my money to pay for this. We'll get you a pie the next time we come."

2. Choose the sentence that tells what is happening in the story.
 1. The family is having a picnic.
 2. The family is eating breakfast at home.
 3. The family is eating at a hamburger place.
 4. The family is eating pie.

Read the story and answer the following question.

In 1961, President Kennedy established a goal for the United States of landing on the moon before 1970. The goal was achieved July 24, 1969, at 11:12 a.m. PDT, with the three astronauts stepping on the deck of the recovery ship, Hornet. The mission was a complete success from liftoff to splashdown. The triumph of the Apollo 11 required that each of the over 3 million parts of the rocket and spacecraft would function perfectly. All of the various components worked flawlessly and Apollo 11's success will lead to ten additional Apollo missions.

The most exciting portion of the mission was the actual landing on the moon's surface and an over two-hour walk on the moon. The LEM, or Lunar Excursion Module, descended to the surface of the moon Sunday, July 20th. Over 400 million people throughout the world watched via communication satellite as Neil Armstrong emerged from the LEM, or Eagle as it was called. "Buzz" Aldrin stepped down the ladder about 20 minutes later. Live television pictures of the walk traveled 240,000 miles back to the earth. The space pioneers tried out the $1/6$ G gravity and proved again that man is very adaptable. They conducted scientific experiments and collected samples of moon-rock which will be carefully studied by geologists.

The arrival aboard the Hornet did not complete the mission for the three heroes. The President of the United States greeted them upon their arrival but even he had to do it through a window in a trailer-like quarantine unit. The astronauts had to remain in quarantine until August 12th as a precaution against any moon germs that they might have brought back.

3. Man is very adaptable. What does adaptable mean?

1. awkward
2. can adjust easily
3. is nervous
4. can operate a T.V. camera

4. Choose the meaning of the underlined word as it is used in the sentence below.

The coarse, raucous laughter in the halls disturbed the class.

1. loud
2. polite
3. delightful
4. mysterious

5. Which of the following statements is a fact?

1. Mr. Lincoln is the best teacher I have ever had.
2. It is too cold and rainy to play football.
3. Portland is the largest city in Oregon.
4. German shepherds make the best family pets.

6. Below is a topic sentence for a paragraph.

Residents of large cities face many problems.

Which of the following would not be included in a paragraph with this topic sentence?

1. Noise pollution is an ever-increasing annoyance.
2. Crowded streets lengthen travel time.
3. Theaters and restaurants are varied and interesting.
4. Crime is increasing in residential areas.

7. Choose the statement which is an opinion.

1. Newspapers publish the news.
2. Everyone should read the newspaper.
3. Many skills are employed in the printing of a newspaper.
4. Biweekly newspapers are printed twice a week.

Read the story.

The family laid out a large tablecloth on the grass. Mother and father brought the sandwiches and pop to drink. Jane and Gloria brought paper napkins and a thermos with juice in it. Father said, "I hope there are no ants here."

8. What is the family doing?
1. They are eating in a restaurant.
 2. They are at the beach.
 3. They are having a picnic.
 4. They are hiking.

Read the story.

When morning came the Indian hunters rose early. They would have to spend all day tracking Ko-Mi, the bear. They had found his trail yesterday, but Ko-Mi had eluded them. They would follow the bear to his lair, capture and kill him with spears, and then carry him back to their homes in the village.

9. In this story lair means
1. track.
 2. trail.
 3. home.
 4. village.

Read the paragraph below and answer the question that follows.

The small girls crept cautiously along the narrow trail. Their halting steps slowly carried them across the ravine and down to the winding, blue-black stream. When they reached the dark water, they paused, clinging to each other, afraid to go further.

10. This paragraph was developed by
1. comparison.
 2. logical order of detail.
 3. example.
 4. descriptive detail.

Read the following paragraph. Select the answer which describes the main idea of the paragraph.

Grandfather and grandmother moved to Rivertown to build a house. A rapid river flowed through the town. Grandfather built a house at the top of a hill. He wanted to be sure that the water in the river never got near his house.

11. The main idea of this paragraph is to tell that grandfather wanted
1. to live in a town with a rapid river nearby.
 2. to live in the country where he could build a house near the river.
 3. to build his home a safe distance from the river.
 4. to live away from Rivertown.

Read the story.

You may have seen elephants at the circus or the zoo, but did you know that elephants are also used in India and Burma as we would use a truck? Elephants carry heavy loads and lift things with their trunks. Orders are given to the elephants by a man called a mahout. The elephants know this person and obey him. Some of these caretakers stay with their elephants all their lives.

12. This story told you
1. stories about elephants.
 2. true facts about elephants.
 3. the writer's own ideas about elephants.
 4. stories of ancient elephants that lived long ago.

Banana-Nut Cake

$2\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour	$\frac{2}{3}$ cup shortening
$1\frac{2}{3}$ cups sugar	$\frac{2}{3}$ cup buttermilk
$1\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. baking powder	$1\frac{1}{4}$ cups mashed ripe bananas (about 3)
$1\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. soda	3 eggs
1 tsp. salt	$\frac{2}{3}$ cup finely chopped nuts

Heat oven to 350° (moderate). Grease and flour two layer pans 9 x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " or an oblong pan 13 x $9\frac{1}{2}$ x 2". Measure flour by sifting. Blend flour, sugar, baking powder, soda and salt. Add shortening, half of buttermilk and mashed bananas. Beat 2 minutes, medium speed on mixer or 300 vigorous strokes by hand. Scrape sides and bottom of bowl constantly. Add eggs and rest of buttermilk. Beat 2 more minutes, scraping bowl frequently. Fold in nuts. Pour into pan(s). Bake in round layer pans about 35 minutes; oblong pan about 45 to 50 minutes. Cool. Finish with butter icing or frost with whipped cream and decorate with banana slices.

13. According to the recipe, which ingredient is needed?

1. milk
2. pineapple wedges
3. chopped nuts
4. 2 tsp. salt

14. What method is used to measure the flour?

1. sifting
2. blending
3. leveling
4. dip-level-pour

15. If you use the oblong pan, what is the baking time?

1. about 35 minutes
2. 45 to 50 minutes
3. 2 minutes
4. none of the above

In the sentences below, the word level is used in different ways. Read the answer choices and choose the one which best fits the way the word level is used in each sentence.

16. Make these bricks level with those bricks.

1. an even, horizontal surface
2. a degree or stage
3. to destroy or knock down
4. height or depth

17. He reached a high reading level.

1. an even, horizontal surface
2. a degree or stage
3. to destroy or knock down
4. height or depth

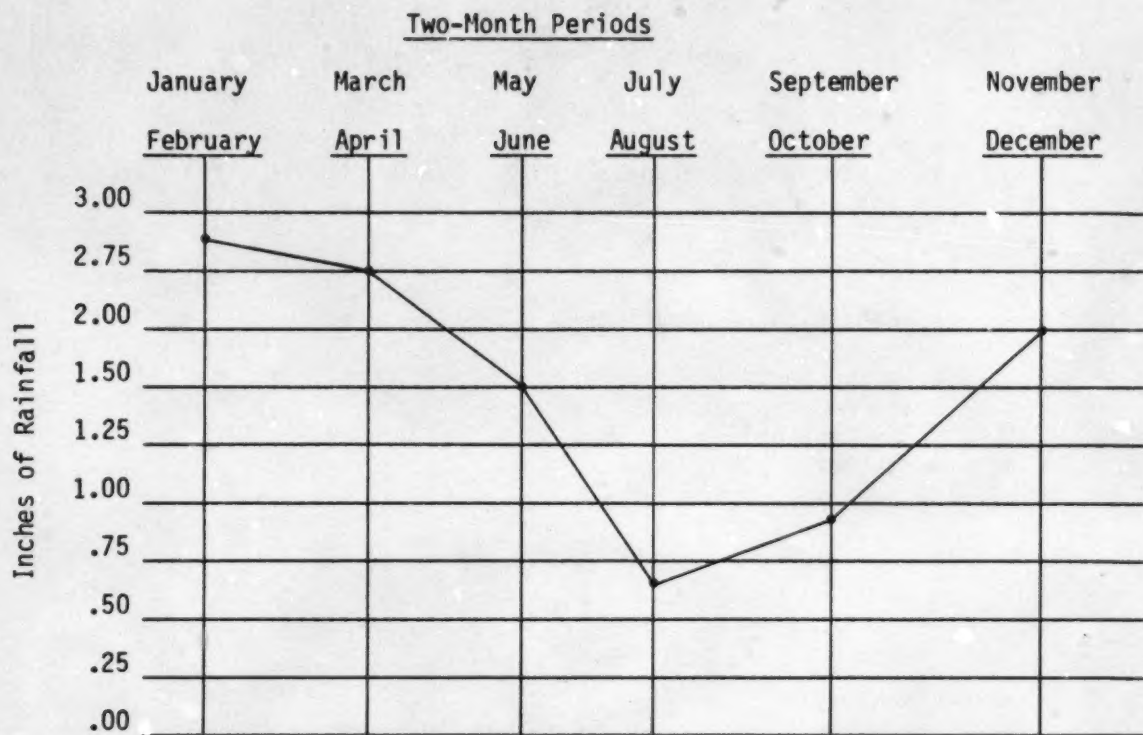
Read the story.

Have you ever heard of Johnny Appleseed? Johnny Appleseed's real name was John Chapman. He lived over 100 years ago. Johnny Appleseed walked from farm to farm planting apple trees because people liked them. He was barefoot and wore only rags. Johnny Appleseed never accepted money for his trees. He would only take a little food.

18. Such ideas about Johnny being barefooted, wearing rags, and having little food show that he

1. was not well liked by farmers.
2. didn't get help from other people.
3. lived simply and did not ask much from other people.
4. couldn't sell his trees.

Read the graph.



19. According to this graph the wettest time of year at this weather station was during the months of

1. March-April.
2. July-August.
3. November-December.
4. January-February.

20. Read the sentences below. Choose the sentence that is a fact.

1. Red is a prettier color than purple.
2. Roses smell better than carnations.
3. People depend on animals for many products.
4. Everyone who plays in mud puddles will catch a cold.

21. Which word below is a synonym, a word having nearly the same meaning, for the word underlined in the sentence.

Our country is not ruled by tyrannical dictators.

1. old
2. quitting
3. kind
4. cruel

22. Choose the word that best describes how the person speaking feels.

"I just love to trip over your feet!"

1. elated
2. upset
3. happy
4. confused

23. Which statement is fact?

1. The name television comes from the Greek word tele, meaning far, and the Latin word videre, meaning to see.
2. Television is more important than books and may replace libraries in the near future.
3. Most families need at least two television sets to insure that adequate choice of programs is available.
4. All children watch too much television which affects their learning skill.

Read the paragraph below and answer the question that follows.

The first Indian brother could swallow the river. The second Indian brother had a head of rock. The third Indian brother could stretch and stretch his legs. The fourth Indian brother could not be burned, and the fifth Indian brother could hold his breath as long as he wished.

24. If you were outlining the above passage in topic form, which one of the following would be the main point of the paragraph?
1. The Indian brothers are a strange group.
 2. Each of the Indian brothers had one special characteristic.
 3. The fourth Indian brother could play with fire.
 4. The fifth Indian brother could stay under water as long as he wished.

The following section is from the 1976 Guinness Book of World Records.

A form of soccer was played in China in the 3rd and 4th centuries B.C., but the game did not become standardized until the formation of the Football Association in England on October 26, 1863. The highest score recorded in any first-class match was 36. The highest goal margin in any international match was 17. Pelé of Brazil is one of the best known soccer players of the twentieth century.

25. Which statement is a fact?
1. Soccer is a relatively new game.
 2. Soccer is a rugged game to play.
 3. Girls cannot play soccer.
 4. Present-day soccer has evolved over a long period of time.

Here is a topic sentence for a paragraph.

Snoring has many causes.

Study the statements below. Some of these details could be used in a paragraph about the causes of snoring; other could not.

- A. Enlarged tonsils may cause snoring.
- B. My uncle from California snores.
- C. One person in six snores.
- D. Smoking may change the throat tissues and lead to snoring.
- E. Snoring is noisy.

26. Which two details could be used in a paragraph about the causes of snoring.

- 1. A and B
- 2. C and E
- 3. A and D
- 4. B and D

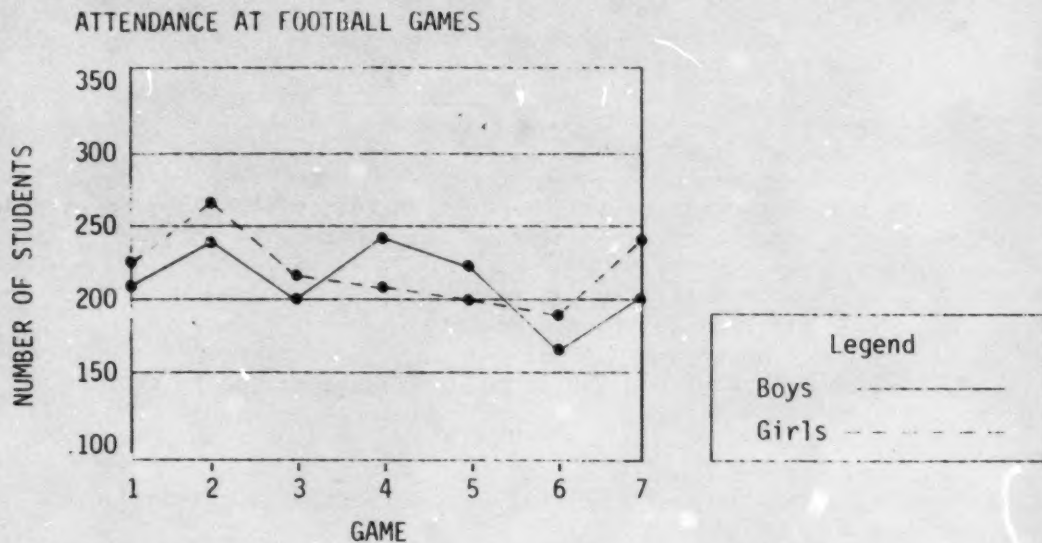
Read the paragraph.

Irving Berlin was born Israel Baline in Russia in 1888. His family moved to New York City when he was only four years old where he attended school for only two years. He sold newspapers on the Lower East Side of New York City, sang on street corners, and became a singing waiter in Chinatown. He had no formal music training, but few composers can equal the rich outpouring of memorable melodies of Irving Berlin.

27. Which statement is an opinion?

- 1. Irving Berlin became a singing waiter in Chinatown.
- 2. He had no formal music training.
- 3. Few composers can equal the rich outpouring of Irving Berlin.
- 4. Irving Berlin became a composer in spite of limited training.

Using the graph shown below, answer the question that follows.



28. The same number of boys attended games 2 and _____.

1. 6
2. 1
3. 3
4. 4

Read the story.

The weather was hot and dry. There were many people at the beach. Like me, they had come to enjoy what would probably be the last sunny weekend before the weather would get cooler and school would begin again. I felt strangely out of place among the happy, splashing group of people.

29. The writer most likely feels

1. sad that summer is ending.
2. hot and dry.
3. happy that school will soon begin.
4. strangely happy in the large crowds.

Read the following.

During the 20th century, the average life span of Americans has increased dramatically from 50 years to over 70 years. Along with this benefit of lengthened life has come the problem of caring for our ever-increasing older population. Facilities and programs for the elderly have not kept up with their numbers or needs, and neglect has deprived many elderly from enjoying their extra years of life.

30. Which statement best expresses the author's attitude?

1. People are living too long today.
2. Added life span is meaningless without ways to make old age pleasurable.
3. The life span should not be lengthened any more in the 20th century.
4. The life span should be decreased to prevent neglect.

Read the following.

Following the severe drought in Buchanan County, farmers banded together to protect themselves from further natural calamities. The Department of Agriculture could not be persuaded to assist the farmers and ranchers, so they built their own system of water storage tanks, canals and pipelines. While bureaucrats in Washington shuffled papers and "passed the buck," the local citizens in Buchanan County had developed a foolproof safety system. They knew how to take care of their own.

31. If there is another drought in Buchanan County, what will probably happen?

1. The Department of Agriculture will send in disaster aid.
2. Buchanan County will be economically destroyed.
3. The farmers' system will save crops.
4. The farmers will protest to Washington.

Read the story.

The dodo was a bird that lived on Mauritius Island in the Indian Ocean. Dodos could not fly. When sailors came to the island, they killed the dodos for food. Pigs and monkeys from the sailors' ships attacked the helpless dodos and ate their eggs. After one hundred and fifty years, the dodos were all dead. Today, we have only the pictures and descriptions left by early explorers to inform us about the unfortunate dodos.

32. What best describes the author's attitude about the dodos?

1. He is glad they are all dead now.
2. He thinks the dodos were helpless victims.
3. He cannot understand why sailors would kill dodos.
4. He thinks dodos should have been able to fly.

Read the paragraph.

In the spring of 1542, Coronado and his men returned from the Great Plains back to Mexico where the expedition had started. There was no gold at Cibola or Quiveri or anywhere else on the plains. There was nothing but wasteland.

33. Which action might logically follow?

1. Coronado reported that there was no further use in exploring the Great Plains.
2. Coronado predicted that the Great Plains would someday be the breadbasket of a great nation.
3. Coronado eventually returned to the Great Plains to settle down and live out his life.
4. Coronado's men deserted him and returned to the Great Plains.

Read the advertisement.

When a mechanic comes looking for a heavy-duty rust-buster, sell him No-Rust. No-Rust means business. No-Rust's new formula works fast to free rust. No-Rust actually penetrates the pores of metal parts to loosen up deposits of rust, corrosion, scale, paint, varnish, carbon and gum--and to keep those parts loosened up a long time. Stock No-Rust in six and fifteen ounce aerosols and the handy one pint spout-top can. No-Rust. The heavy-duty rust-buster from Permacorp. It means business!

34. What does the advertisement suggest?

1. Buying the fifteen ounce aerosol is a better buy.
2. Mechanics will find No-Rust useful.
3. No-Rust will keep parts well lubricated.
4. No-Rust removes all rust from metal parts in less than one hour.

35. Which statement does the article lead you to believe?

1. No-Rust will keep parts rust free.
2. No-Rust has a magic ingredient.
3. No-Rust will increase business profits.
4. No-Rust will keep bolts from breaking.

Read the following.

A cigarette billboard has a picture of two people sitting next to a waterfall in a forest, lighting cigarettes.

36. The billboard wants you to think

1. about keeping the forest clean.
2. about going camping.
3. of the cigarette as cool and refreshing.
4. of sitting next to a forest.

Read the paragraph.

Enrico's body seethed with disgust. The other bullfighter would not get away with his show-stealing prancing around. He was an exhibitionist, a type Enrico had no use for. The business of bullfighting was a skill, an art not to be ridiculed by men with no respect for tradition.

37. Which word best describes Enrico's attitude toward the other bullfighter?

1. fear
2. concern
3. scorn
4. respect

Read the details below. Some of them could be used in a paragraph about sports being an important part of school activities. Others should not.

- A. Some sports figures earn thousands of dollars.
- B. Being a spectator at such sports makes me feel a part of the school.
- C. Students need varied activities--social, educational and competitive ones.
- D. Athletes have to train many hours in order to do their best in any sport.

38. Which of the sentences should be used in the paragraph?

1. A and B
2. B and C
3. B and D
4. A and D

Read the paragraph below and answer the question that follows.

The advent of the automobile has caused profound changes in the American way of life. The petroleum industry, the steel industry, and the rubber industry have all grown to tremendous proportions. Highway construction is at an all-time peak. The number of people whose occupations are directly or indirectly influenced by automobiles is staggering. Perhaps, the most noticeable change is that we have become more mobile as distance has ceased to be a consideration. We drive anywhere, anytime.

39. According to the paragraph, which of the following is not a result of the advent of the automobile?
1. More people live in the country.
 2. Industries have grown.
 3. People travel more.
 4. More highways are being built.

French toast is really rather easy to make. Here's a recipe for making two pieces.

Crack open two eggs into a bowl; beat them with a fork. Add one-fourth cup of milk and just a dash of salt and mix them all together. Dip two slices of bread into the milk-and-egg mixture and fry until golden brown using a frying pan in which one tablespoon of cooking oil has been heated.

40. According to this recipe, how many eggs are used for each slice of French toast?
1. one-half
 2. one
 3. one and one-half
 4. two

Use the long distance rate chart below and answer the question that follows.

Long Distance Rates

Examples of a 3 minute call from BELLEVUE

You pay a lower rate when you dial station calls yourself. This is a call where you dial "1", then the appropriate area code (if calling a location outside of Western Washington), and the called number. These calls must be billed to the number from which you are calling. Examples of rates for these calls are shown below.

STATION CALLS YOU DIAL YOURSELF								
	MON thru FRI 8am-8pm		SUN thru FRI 8pm-11pm		SAT 8am-11pm SUN 8am-6pm		Special "One Minute" Rate 11pm-8am Every Day	
	Initial 3 Minutes	Each Addl. Minute	Initial 3 Minutes	Each Addl. Minute	Initial 3 Minutes	Each Addl. Minute	Initial 1 Minute	Each Addl. Minute
Washington Points*								
Spokane	\$.83	\$.26	\$.60	\$.20	\$.60	\$.20	\$.23	\$.15
Walla Walla	.83	.26	.60	.20	.60	.20	.23	.15
Yakima	.73	.22	.48	.18	.45	.15	.18	.12
Longview	.73	.22	.48	.18	.45	.15	.18	.12
Bellingham	.62	.19	.45	.15	.42	.14	.18	.10
Outside Washington								
New York	\$1.45	\$.48	\$.85	\$.25	\$.70	\$.20	\$.36	\$.20
Chicago	1.35	.42	.75	.25	.65	.20	.25	.20
Denver	1.25	.38	.70	.20	.65	.20	.25	.20
San Francisco	1.15	.35	.65	.20	.60	.15	.20	.15
Portland	.75	.22	.50	.15	.48	.13	.20	.13

*From 10pm to 8am everyday—\$1.00 or less for a 10 minute call you dial yourself to any Washington point.
Each additional minute after the first 10 minutes is 10¢.

41. When could you make the least expensive 3-minute call from Bellevue to Yakima?

1. Sunday at 6 p.m.
2. Saturday at 10 a.m.
3. Sunday at 7 a.m.
4. Monday at 4 p.m.

Read the paragraph.

Because scientists needed a system for measuring hardness of stones, they have developed what is called a "Scale of Hardness." There are ten classifications in this scale. The softest stones can be scratched with your fingernail. This type is classified as No. 1 hardness. The harder the stone the higher the number on the scale, until you get to diamonds which are in a class all by themselves and are No. 10.

42. From the above paragraph we can learn that

1. a scale is used for weighing things.
2. a scale can be a system of classifying things.
3. a scale is a way of telling how hard diamonds are.
4. a scale is a series of stones arranged in sequence.

Read the story.

Many experts claim that the polar bear not only will attack but stalk and eat human beings. One professional polar bear hunter tells of seeing a sealing schooner anchored and two men on the ice skinning a bear. "We say another bear stalking them," the hunter said, "but we were too far away to shout or help. One man picked up a rifle and went to meet the advancing bear. When it got close he fired, but the bear came on and knocked him down. The man who had been skinning the bear rushed to a small boat and rowed in frantic haste to the schooner for help. A few minutes later we came upon the remains of the first man's body. It was torn to pieces."

43. The main idea of the paragraph is

1. don't attack polar bears.
2. polar bears seek revenge for the harming of other bears.
3. polar bears will hunt men as their prey.
4. hunters should remain close to a source of help if it is needed.

Use this section of a dictionary page to answer the question that follows.

steer

stearin (stĕ'arin or stĕ'an). 1. a colorless, odorless substance that is the chief constituent of many animal and vegetable fats. 2. mixture of fatty acids used for making candles, solid alcohol, etc. *n.*
stead fast (stĕd'fast'), **steadfast**. *adj.* —**stead'fast-ly**, *adv.*
steed (stĕd). 1. horse, especially a riding horse. 2. a high spirited horse. *n.*
steel (stĕl). 1. iron mixed with carbon so that it is very hard, strong, and tough. Most tools are made from steel. 2. something made from steel. 3. sword. 4. piece of steel for making sparks. 5. rod of steel for sharpening knives. 6. a narrow strip of steel in a corset. 7. made of steel. 8. point, edge, or cover with steel. 9. make hard or strong like steel. *He steeled his heart against the sufferings of the poor.* 10. steellike hardness or strength. *The brave soldier had nerves of steel.* 1-6, 10 *n.*, 7 *adj.*, 8-9 *v.* —**steel'less**, *adj.* —**steel'like**, *adj.*
steel blue, lustrous dark blue, like the color of tempered steel.
steel wool, small, fine steel shavings, used in cleaning or polishing surfaces.
steel work er (stĕl'wĕrk-er), person who works in a place where steel is made. *n.*
steel works (stĕl'wĕrk'), place where steel is made. *n.* *pl.* or *sing.*
steely (stĕl'ē), 1. made of steel. 2. like steel in color, strength, or hardness. *adj.*
steelier, **steeliest**. —**steel'iness**, *n.*
steelyard (stĕl'yārd or stĕl'yārd), a scale for weighing. A steelyard has unequal arms, the longer one having a movable weight and the shorter a hook for holding the object to be weighed. *n.*
steen bok (stĕn'bok' or stĕn'bok'), any of various small African antelopes frequenting rocky places. *n.*
steep (stĕp), 1. having a sharp



Steelyard. The weight is moved until the arms are horizontal; the number at which it rests is the weight of the object on the hook.



stentor

steering wheel, wheel that is turned to steer an automobile, ship, etc.
steers man (stĕr'sman), person who steers a ship. *n.* *pl.* **steers men**
Stef áns son (stĕf'an sŏn), Vilhjálmur, 1879-1962, American anthropologist and Arctic explorer, born in Canada. *n.*
steg o my ia (stĕg'ōmĭ'ā), mosquito that transmits yellow fever. *n.*
steg o sau rus (stĕg'ōsāu'rus), an extinct reptile of great size (sometimes nearly 40 feet long) with heavy bony armor. *n.* *pl.* **steg o sau ri** (-rĭ).
stein (stĕin), a beer mug. *n.*
Stein metz (stĕin'mĕts), Charles F., 1865-1923, American scientist and engineer, born in Germany. *n.*
ste le (stĕ'lē), an upright slab or pillar of stone bearing an inscription, sculptural design, or the like. *n.* *pl.* **ste lae** (-lē) or **ste les**.
St. Eli an (sānt'elĭ'ās), Mount, mountain on border between the state of Alaska and Yukon Territory, Canada. 18,008 ft.
stel lar (stĕl'ar), 1. of or having to do with the stars, of a star, like a star. 2. chief; a **stellar role**. *adj.*
St. El mo's fire (sānt'el'mōz), light due to a discharge of atmospheric electricity, often seen on masts, towers, etc.
stem (stĕm), 1. the main part of a plant above the ground. The stem supports the branches, etc. 2. the part of a flower, a fruit, or a leaf that joins it to the plant or tree. 3. remove the stem from (a leaf, fruit, etc.). 4. anything like or suggesting the stem of a plant; *the stem of a goblet, the stem of a pipe, etc.* 5. grow out; develop. *Newspapers stemmed from the invention of the printing press.* 6. originate or spring from. 7. line of descent of a family. 8. the part of a word to which endings are added and in which changes are made. *Run* is the stem of *running, runner, ran, etc.* 9. the bow or front end of a boat. 1, 2, 4, 7-9 *n.*, 3, 5, 6 *v.*, **stemmed**, **stem ming**. —**stem'like**, *adj.*
from stem to stern, from one end of a ship to the other.
stem (stĕm), 1. stop; check; dam up. 2. make progress against; *stem the swift current.* *v.*, **stemmed**, **stem ming**.

44. Which dictionary definition is correct for the underlined word as it is used in the sentence below?

Elvis Presley's songs stem from spiritual and jazz music.

1. 6
2. 7
3. 8
4. 9

Read the paragraph.

In August my parents will celebrate their sixtieth wedding anniversary. Because of their totally different personalities, it is difficult to believe that they have remained happily married for so long. Mother is quiet and shy. Father loves to talk and tell jokes. Mother is sympathetic to problems of others. Father is gruff and stern. Perhaps the reason they have weathered so many years together is that they always respect each other's opinions.

45. What is the main idea of this paragraph?

1. In August my parents celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.
2. My mother respects my father's opinions.
3. My parents have totally different personalities.
4. Father is gruff and stern.